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REPORT OF THE DRAFTING GROUP TO THE PLENARY

United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Administrator on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (DP/1993/43),

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, invited the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to assist the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process for an international convention on desertification and to mobilize resources for this purpose,

Recalling the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, chapters 12 and 38 of Agenda 21 on land degradation and desertification, and on new institutional arrangements, respectively,

Taking note of the important contribution of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in assisting the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, in particular in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Recognizes the important role of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in the implementation of follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. Encourages the Administrator to strengthen the substantive role and maintain the identity of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as focal point within the United Nations Development Programme for all matters related to drought and desertification control, in accordance with the ongoing process of its integration into the core programme of the United Nations Development Programme;

3. Decides that the experience and technical expertise of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in drought and desertification control should be made available to all affected countries, in particular those in Africa;

4. Encourages the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to assist the affected countries, in particular in the framework of the negotiations regarding an international convention on desertification, in line with General Assembly resolution 47/188;

5. Renews its appeal to governments and organizations to contribute to the general resources of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as well as to the account established by the Office for assistance in preparation for the international convention on desertification and, in this context, requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its forty-first session (1994) on alternative ways and means of financing the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

6. Reconfirms its support to the United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office/United Nations Environment Programme joint venture for the implementation of chapter 12 of Agenda 21 in the countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly in Africa;

7. Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its forty-first session (1994), on an exceptional basis, on the implementation of the present decision; in addition, the Administrator's report should provide information on ways of utilizing the experience and expertise of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in programmes of the United Nations Development Programme in all countries affected by drought and desertification.